

BINF704 Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR - Jeff Solka Ph.D., jlsolka@gmail.com, 540-809-9799

OFFICE HOURS – By appointment.

PLACE AND TIME - Course fully asynchronous

PURPOSE of the COURSE

This course serves to train students in understanding scientific presentations and publications while simultaneously giving them a rudimentary capability to craft a colloquium style presentation based on a journal article.

EXPECTATIONS - Students are expected to record a presentation on a journal paper as chosen by them, watch 4 online presentations from outside speakers, and answer quizzes on 2 of them and provide write-up on 2 of them. Ideally the paper presented should be related to the student's ongoing research and the student is free to present on ongoing research. Alternatively students can present on a paper of the professor's choosing. Students will present in teams of 2 or more where each team will have 45 minutes to present including time for questions. These presentations will be recorded using this feature in Microsoft Powerpoint. Questions about presentations will be submitted via the course Blackboard page. In addition students are expected to submit 2 in-depth write-ups, 7-10 pages 14pt single spaced, on external speaker presentations. Writeups should minimally provide a summarization of the talk in the student's own words. Any insights into the research discussed in the talk should be presented within the body of the writeup. One of these will be due by 6:00 pm March 1, 2016 and one will be due by 6:00 pm April 26, 2016. Finally students are expected to evaluate each of the student presentations on a 100 point scale as follows

33 pts - Presentation Content

33pts - Organization of the Talk

34 pts - Student's Understanding of Material

When one turns in the grade for a talk via Blackboard they are also expected to submit a codeword which is embedded in the audio track of the talk. All course material will be submitted via Blackboard and students are expected to use the course Blackboard Wiki to select presentation partners.

GRADING - Students grades will be calculated in the following manner.

20% Quiz Grades

40% Course Presentation

40% Presentation Write-ups

Grading will be on the following scale. 93-100 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86 (B), 80-82(B-), less than 80 (C). Student averages will be rounded to the closest integer to determine final letter grades.

External Speaker Talks

TBD

Students are strongly encouraged to attend Student Research Day on Wed 4/27/16

There is no final exam scheduled for the course.